

Guilford's Northwoods Trails network links a collection of open space tracts that are spread across North Guilford including Bluff Head, the Braemore Preserve and the James Valley Preserve and neighboring towns such as Madison's Mica Ledges and Rockland Preserve. There are currently over 600 acres of permanently protected land in Guilford north of Lake Quonipaug. Seventeen miles of recreational trails currently exist in Northwoods. The Braemore Preserve is a 95-acre open space tract. Braemore consists of both lowland and upland zones. The lowland features open meadow, open wetlands, pine grove, and red maple swamp. The upland is characterized by deciduous forest, sprinkled with small stands of red cedar. It rises abruptly from the lowland

about 200 vertical feet in a series of rock bluffs with several rocky ridges rising another 50 to 100 feet. James Valley Preserve is a 75-acre open space tract. The great trap rock ridge of Totoket Mountain reaches its northernmost extent and drops 400 vertical feet to Hemlock Brook, headwaters to the Coginchaug River. Two streams cut the broad northeast face of the ridge into three distinct projections. James Valley Preserve encompasses much of the westernmost projection, and a portion of the Hemlock Brook Valley. The highest point in the preserve is 720 feet above sea level. The principal hiking trail at James Valley is the Lone Pine Trail, which provides a 10-mile loop with the Mattabessett Trail. Please stay on marked trails as Regional Water Authority property is also in this area and access to this site is restricted.

Information regarding the other trails in this area can be found at the following:
Bluff Head Preserve - <http://www.guilfordlandtrust.org/bluffhead.html>.
Mica Ledges - www.madisonlandtrust.org/rockland.html.
Rockland Preserve—<http://www.madisonct.org/Rockland/>
The Mattabessett Trail and other Blue Blazed Trails—contact the CT Forest and Parks Association at www.ctwoodlands.org.

Photo by Leslie Kane, Town of Guilford



Directions and Parking:

These trails are all in North Branford adjacent to Durham Road (Route 77). Visitors currently can access the James Valley Preserve on foot from Route 77 via the Lone Pine Trail (1.5 mile hike), or by car to Red Barns Road via the town of Durham. The largest parking area at Bluff Head is located on Route 77, one half mile north of Great Hill Road.

Permitted Activities:

The passive woodland area contains horse riding trails, jogging trails and acres of woodlands to hike, walk and cross- country ski. No motorized vehicles are permitted.

For more information about this location, contact:

Town of Guilford
 Department of Parks and Recreation
 (203) 453-8068

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Mapping for this trail brochure was created by Ken Geisler for the Town of Guilford.

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